



**SEIUHealthcare®**  
United for Quality Care

February 22, 2022  
Dilliner Jordan, PCA  
West Haven  
District 1199 New England  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Dilliner Jordan, and I'm a PCA from West Haven. I've been a caregiver for more than 30 years. I work 2 jobs caring for 2 consumers. We're first responders, and we give our consumers 100%.

But as a caregiver I've been homeless for the last 6-8 months. With \$2,000 in the bank, I have too much money to qualify for subsidized housing, but not enough for a deposit on an apartment. Sometimes I stay with my consumer when she allows me; sometimes I sleep in my car. I don't want to go to a shelter because I'm scared of catching COVID.

I also don't have health insurance. If I need care, I have no choice but to go to the Emergency room.

I'm not alone in this. The majority of caregivers are women and people of color like me. My son is a firefighter, and he has the basics we're demanding here: a livable wage, health insurance, paid sick days, and a retirement plan. Why is the work of caring for low-income people with disabilities seen as less valuable? When will the work that is traditionally done by women of color like me be seen as just as essential as any other public responder?

I love this work, but we're like a dog chasing our tail; we're not living, we're just existing. Would you walk a day in my shoes, a homecare worker who's homeless and without health insurance? Would you walk a day in my shoes as an essential worker sleeping in your car? If you wouldn't do it, why is it ok for me to do it? Please help PCA's like me get what we deserve. Thank you for your time.